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GREAT NEED RESPONSIBLE FOR OVERSIZE WHEAT GOAL

Announcing a final 1947 wheat goal for the Nation only slightly less than this year's large acreage, Secretary of Agriculture Anderson said another big acreage is sought because of the present low level of world wheat stocks.

"The proposed acreage (71,720,000 acres) is somewhat larger than would normally be desirable for proper conservation and land utilization," the Secretary's statement said.

The 1947 wheat goals set by the State USDA Councils and approved by the Department compared with 71,896,000 acres planted for harvest this year.

Kansas tops the 1947 list with a goal of 13,600,000 acres followed by North Dakota, 10,000,000 acres; Oklahoma, 6,330,000 acres; Texas, 6,000,000 acres; and Nebraska, 4,200,000 acres.

GREATER CONSUMPTION OF PEACHES URGED

Peaches are in abundance, and a campaign has been launched in New Mexico asking consumers to buy and serve generous amounts of peaches, C. V. Hemphill, State Director of the Production and Marketing Administration, said.

Peach production this year is expected to total 81,065,000 bushels, only one percent less than the all-time high of 81,600,000 bushels sent to market during 1945. Production in New Mexico is estimated at 170,000 bushels.

While peaches may be served in many appetizing ways, either raw or cooked, housewives are urged to take advantage of supplies now on the market and home-can, dry, and freeze them for use later. Commercially canned fruits will not meet consumer demand during the coming year, and peaches preserved now will assure homemakers variety in meals during the winter months, Mr. Hemphill explained.

BEAN BAG BIGGER THAN LAST YEARS

The 1946 dry bean crop will total 15,250,000 bags, according to August 1 reports from growers assembled by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. More than half of the total will be made up of standard white varieties. Prospective 1946 production of Pea and Medium White beans is 4,707,000 bags, 46 percent more than last year. Great Northern production is expected to be 3,270,000 bags, 23 percent more than last year. The 1946 Baby Lima crop may be 5 percent larger than in 1945, but the Standard Lima and Pinto crops are not expected to be more than four-fifths as large as last year. The Red Kidney crop in New York may be 60 percent larger than in 1945.

AMERICAN-EGYPTIAN COTTON LOAN PROGRAM READY

Growers of American-Egyptian cotton can obtain CCC commodity loans on their 1946 crop averaging 6.8 cents a pound above the rates announced for the 1945 crop. The 1946 loan rate for the basic quality (grade No. 2, 1-1/2 in.) will be 49.45 cents per pound, net weight, in the Arizona-California area; 49.70 cents per pound, net weight, in the New Mexico-West Texas area. Actual market differences from August 1, 1945 through June 30, 1946, were used in establishing loan differentials between the various qualities of cotton.

Loans will be available on warehouse-stored cotton on a note-and-loan-agreement basis, with warehouse receipts as collateral, and on farm-stored cotton on a note-and-chattel-mortgage basis. Loans will be available until May 1, 1947, and will mature July 31, 1947, but will be callable on demand. Producers may obtain loans by contacting either their bank or other approved lending agency or their county Triple-A office. Loans also may be arranged with cotton co-operative marketing associations with members acting collectively to obtain their loans.

FERTILIZER SUPPLIES REMAIN TIGHT

Although the production of super-phosphate, nitrogen, and other commercial fertilizers has increased, the world shortage is so severe that the problem of obtaining a fair distribution will be more difficult than during the war years, according to Mr. C. V. Hemphill, State Director of the Production and Marketing Administration. He advises farmers to place orders now for their needs for the coming crop year.

NEW OUTLETS NEEDED FOR CITRUS FRUITS

New products and by-products of oranges, lemons, grapefruit, and other citrus fruits must be found for the U. S. market if the industry is to continue on its current greatly-expanded basis, the Department of Agriculture predicts in the August issue of its publication Marketing and Transportation Situation. The production of citrus fruits is now far above prewar levels, and further substantial expansion can be expected, particularly in Florida and Texas oranges and Florida grapefruit. A downward trend is indicated in prices to growers, USDA points out. With this situation facing them, growers must continue to put a large part of their output into processing. Among possible new products, the Department mentions jellied citrus juice and hard tablets of citrus juice.

FARM NEWS SHORTS

The number of cattle on feed on August 1, this year, in the 11 Corn Belt States was 45 percent smaller than on August 1, 1945, and probably the smallest number on feed on record for that date. Increased feed prices, encouraging early marketings and discouraging replacements, are given as the principal reason for the decline.

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Rising at the average rate of one percent per month for the last 12 months, farm real estate values are now 77 percent above the 1935-39 level and within 20 percent of the 1920 inflationary peak. Voluntary sales and speculative activity in farm real estate are both at near-record volume.

SUBSIDY ONLY SWEETENING FACTOR IN SUGAR OUTLOOK

With little prospect for improvement in the over-all supply, distribution of the sweet stuff for America's coffee and canned fruit took a turn for the better last week. The Office of Economic Stabilization authorized an increased subsidy to domestic beet sugar processors "to speed up marketing of sugar which may have been held in the expectation of price increases."

The increase in processors' subsidy, amounting to about 13 cents per hundred on the 1945-crop of sugar and about 48 cents more per hundred on the 1946 crop, will not increase proceeds received by farmers except by offsetting increased transportation costs to distant areas where supplies have not been received in great enough volume to satisfy valid sugar ration coupons. These transportation costs as a rule are divided between processors and producers in determining proceeds for sugar beets. By encouraging movement of sugar stocks in storage into deficit marketing areas, the measure also can be expected to relieve criticism heard recently that large stores of sugar have been allowed to accumulate while consumers rations are held at an unjustifiably low level.

Meanwhile, the Department of Agriculture made the fact plain that no great improvement can be expected in the near future in world sugar supplies. Rationing of sugar, it said, can be expected to continue at the present rate at least until April 1, 1947 when the next beet and cane sugar crop starts reaching the market in volume. The small increase in supplies during the second half of the year are offset by the consumption requirements of demobilized service men and women. In spite of a 23 percent increase in prospect for U.S. sugar beet production, 1946 production estimates are reduced by unfavorable crop prospects in some U.S. cane-producing areas and in Cuba and Puerto Rica.

